AMAZING
FANTASY
STARRING
SPIDER-MAN
#18
MARVEL
comics

It all began in AMAZING FANTASY #15, as a teenage boy gained amazing powers and learned a hard lesson about sacrifice and heroism. And it continued in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1, as that young man embarked on an uninterrupted string of adventures that would make him one of the most famous super-heroes in the world.

Now, at long last, we reveal what happened between those two landmark issues — how that frightened young boy took his first steps into a world of the fantastic and the bizarre, found his rightful place in it and became the hero we know so well...

STAN LEE Proudly Presents

AMAZING FANTASY #18

"THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN"

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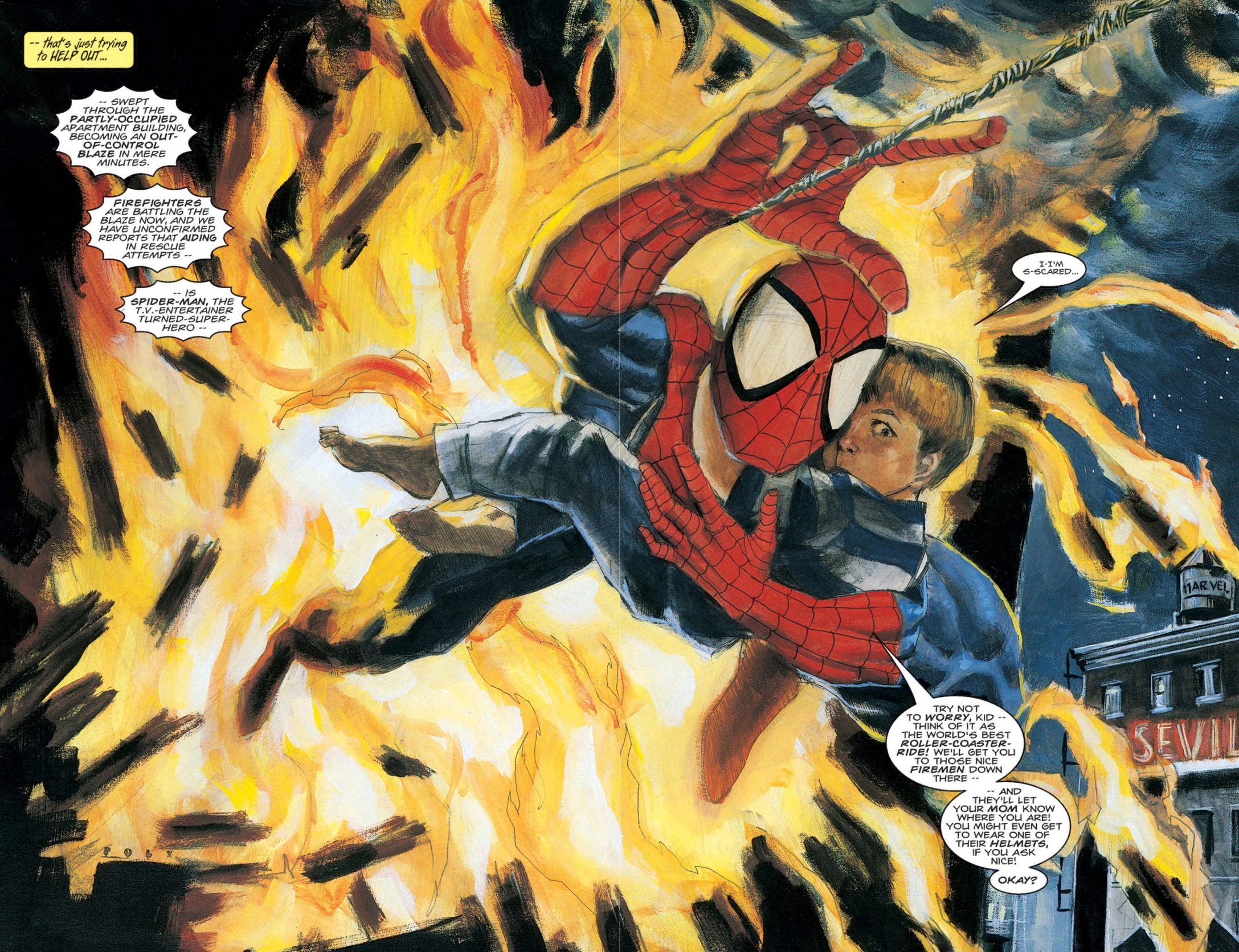
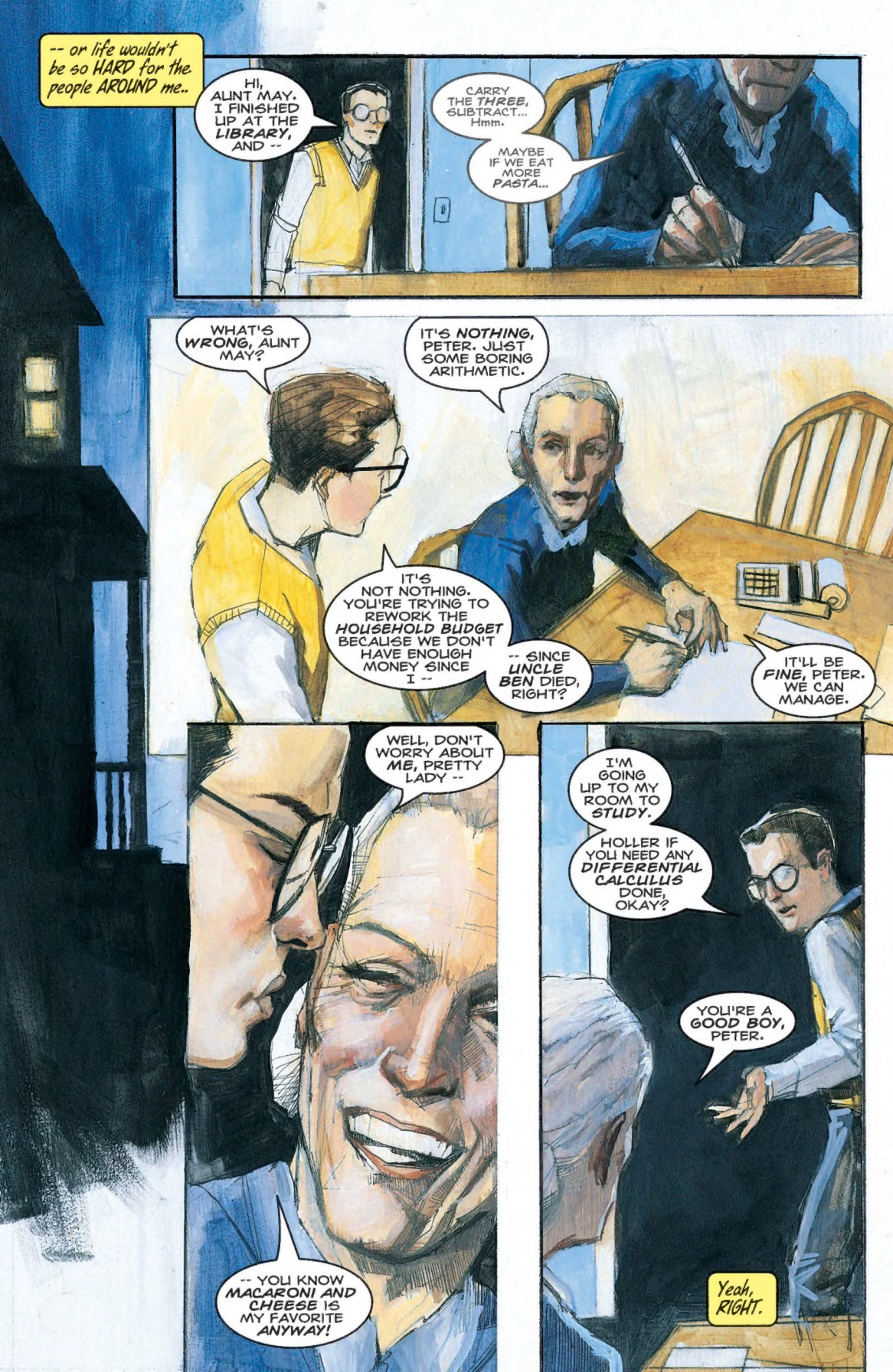
I'm not a SUPER HERO.
I'm NOT.
ARE YOU KIDDING?
LOOK HOW SPIDEY NABBED THE MYSTERY VANDAL! DID THE F.F. DO THAT? DID ANT-MAN?
SPIDEY'S THE BEST SUPER HERO OUT THERE!
Okay, so I got bitten by a RADIOACTIVE SPIDER and got the proportionate POWERS of a spider --
-- but I was ALSO responible for letting a burglar KILL my Uncle Ben --
A SUPER HERO wouldn't have let that happen.
Okay, since then I CAUGHT the burglar -- AND the Undertaker --
-- and I ruined a FRIENDSHIP stopping the "mystery vandal" --
-- but all I'm doing is trying to MAKE UP for my mistakes. That's not being a SUPER HERO --


-- that's just trying to HELP OUT...
-- SWEPT THROUGH THE PARTLY-OCCUPIED APARTMENT BUILDING, BECOMING AN OUT-OF-CONTROL BLAZE IN MERE MINUTES.
FIREFIGHTERS ARE BATTLING THE BLAZE NOW, AND WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT AIDING IN RESCUE ATTEMPTS --
-- IS SPIDER-MAN, THE T.V.-ENTERTAINER TURNED-SUPER-HERO --
I-I'M S-SCARED...
TRY NOT TO WORRY, KID -- THINK OF IT AS THE WORLD'S BEST ROLLER-COASTER-RIDE! WE'LL GET YOU TO THOSE NICE FIREMEN DOWN THERE --
-- AND THEY'LL LET YOUR MOM KNOW WHERE YOU ARE! YOU MIGHT EVEN GET TO WEAR ONE OF THEIR HELMETS, IF YOU ASK NICE!
OKAY?

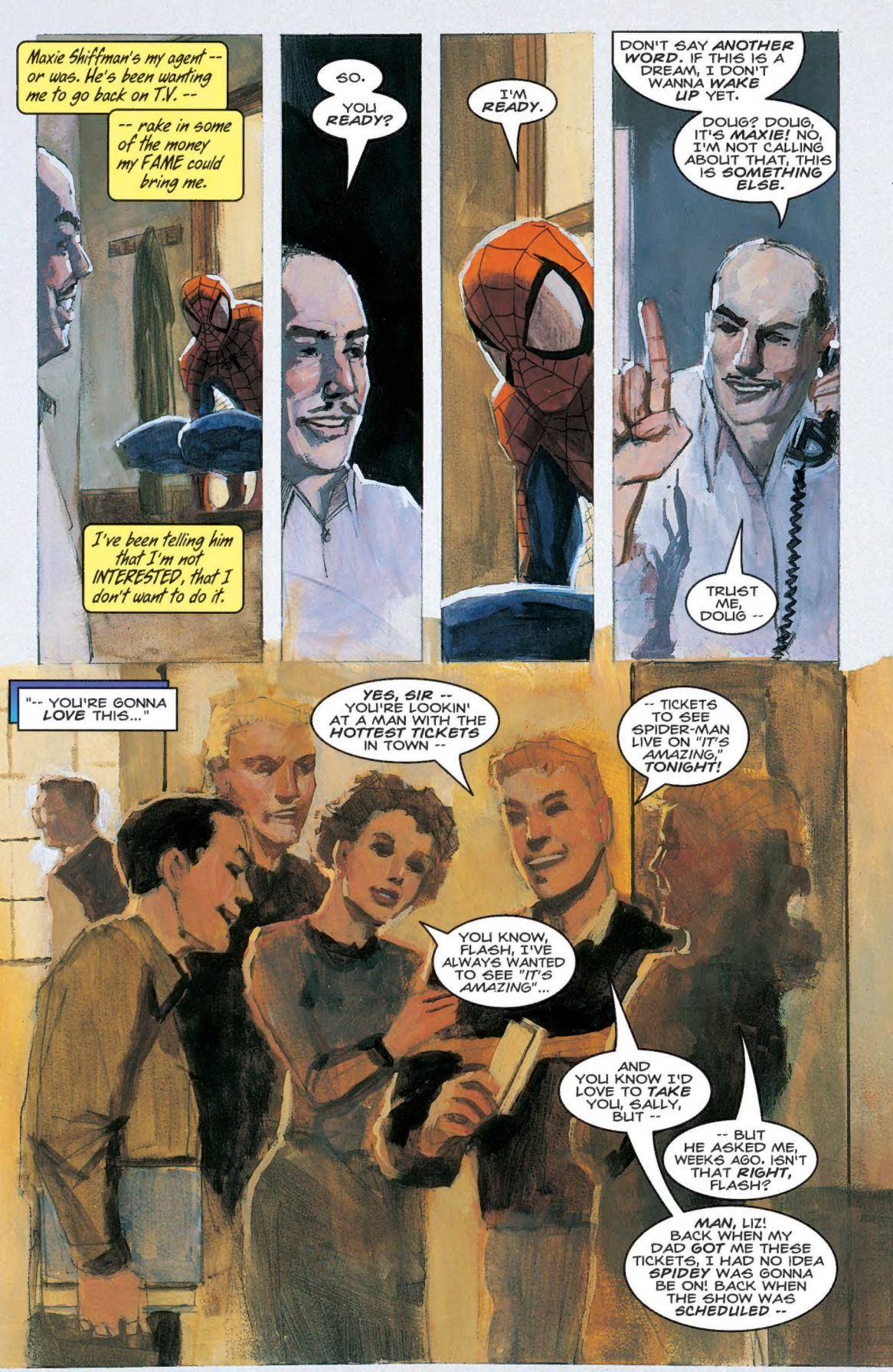
O-OKAY...
SPIDER-MAN!
SPIDER-MAN -- OVER HERE!
FOR PETE'S SAKES, FOLKS, NOT NOW --
"-- THERE'S PEOPLE IN TROUBLE UP THERE!"
LOOKS LIKE SPIDER-MAN GOT THE LAST OF THE TENANTS OUT, AND --
AAH!
MARTY!
MARTY!
DON'T WORRY --
THWP
--I'VE GOT HIM!

SPIDER-MAN!
OUR VIEWERS WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU'VE TURNED YOUR BACK ON YOUR T.V. CAREER --
-- WHY YOU'VE DEVOTED YOURSELF TO STOPPING CRIMES AND SAVING PEOPLE! WHAT WORDS DO YOU HAVE FOR --
THANKS, SPIDER-MAN!
THINK NOTHING OF IT, FELLA.
TALK TO THE FIREMEN, FOLKS!
THEY'RE THE ONES PUTTING THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE EVERY DAY!
BUT --
WAIT --
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S NEWS!
I watch until I'm sure everything's under CONTROL, and they don't NEED me any more.
Why do I DO it?
Because I DIDN'T do it once, and the man who was like a father to me DIED because of it.
Because I let PRIDE blind me to my responsibilities --
-- and a lifetime of MAKING UP for it won't be GOOD enough.
I'm NOT a super hero. I'm just a kid with a little something EXTRA.
Not ENOUGH extra, either --


-- or life wouldn't be so HARD for the people AROUND me..
HI, AUNT MAY. I FINISHED UP AT THE LIBRARY, AND --
CARRY THE THREE, SUBTRACT... Hmm.
MAYBE IF WE EAT MORE PASTA...
WHAT'S WRONG, AUNT MAY?
IT'S NOTHING, PETER. JUST SOME BORING ARITHMETIC.
IT'S NOT NOTHING. YOU'RE TRYING TO REWORK THE HOUSEHOLD BUDGET BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY SINCE I --
-- SINCE UNCLE BEN DIED, RIGHT?
IT'LL BE FINE, PETER. WE CAN MANAGE.
WELL, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, PRETTY LADY --
-- YOU KNOW MACARONI AND CHEESE IS MY FAVORITE ANYWAY!
I'M GOING UP TO MY ROOM TO STUDY.
HOLLER IF YOU NEED ANY DIFFERENTIAL CALCULUS DONE, OKAY?
YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, PETER.
Yeah, RIGHT.

A good boy who could've stopped your HUSBAND from getting killed, but DIDN'T.
A good boy who doesn't help put FOOD on the table, or MONEY in the bank.
-- BACK, WITH MORE OF "IT'S AMAZING," THE T.V. SHOW THAT SHOWS YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THIS AMAZING WORLD OF OURS!
NEXT UP, WE HAVE EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE, TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT CAMERAS --
-- OF THE MIGHTY THOR, AIDING THE ARMY'S TESTS OF AN EXPERIMENTAL ANTI-MISSILE DEFENSE --
Now THERE'S a super hero.
Super heroes are STRONG and brave and NOBLE --
-- they don't have FRAIL AUNTS and MONEY TROUBLES, and they're not outcasts at SCHOOL --
-- and they don't have PHYSICS HOMEWORK --

♫ TE-TUM-TUM, ANYONE ELSE BUT ME... ♫
Hm?
It's Aunt May.
...DON'T SIT UNDER THE APPLE TREE WITH ANYONE ELSE BUT ME... ♫
She sounds so happy, so CAREFREE...
...even though I know she's got to be WORRIED SICK about our money troubles. And I can't even --
-- Aw, who am I kidding?
I CAN do something about our money troubles, I just don't WANT to. But I've got to. I've gotta just BITE the bullet --
-- and DO it.
TAP TAP
WHAT IN--?
SPIDER-MAN?!
MAXIE.


Maxie Shiffman's my agent -- or was. He's been wanting me to go back on T.V. --
-- rake in some of the money my FAME could bring me.
I've been telling him that I'm not INTERESTED, that I don't want to do it.
SO. YOU READY?
I'M READY.
DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD. IF THIS IS A DREAM, I DON'T WANNA WAKE UP YET.
DOUG? DOUG, IT'S MAXIE! NO, I'M NOT CALLING ABOUT THAT, THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE.
TRUST ME, DOUG --
"-- YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS..."
YES, SIR -- YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT A MAN WITH THE HOTTEST TICKETS IN TOWN --
-- TICKETS TO SEE SPIDER-MAN LIVE ON "IT'S AMAZING," TONIGHT!
YOU KNOW, FLASH, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE "IT'S AMAZING"...
AND YOU KNOW I'D LOVE TO TAKE YOU, SALLY, BUT --
-- BUT HE ASKED ME, WEEKS AGO. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, FLASH?
MAN, LIZ! BACK WHEN MY DAD GOT ME THESE TICKETS, I HAD NO IDEA SPIDEY WAS GONNA BE ON! BACK WHEN THE SHOW WAS SCHEDULED --

"-- ALL THEY HAD FOR A HEADLINER WAS SOME DUMB ASTRONAUT--!"
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE BUMPING MY SON JOHN FROM YOUR SHOW TONIGHT?! THIS HAS BEEN SET FOR WEEKS!
I'M SORRY, Mr. JAMESON, BUT WE HAD A LAST-MINUTE OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP SPIDER-MAN, AND --
SPIDER-MAN? BAH!
WHO NEEDS SOME GLORIFIED ACROBAT WHEN YOU'VE GOT JOHN JAMESON, THE POINT MAN FOR AMERICA'S EXPLORATION OF OUTER SPACE?!
IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF RESPONSIBLE COVERAGE --
-- THEN THE DAILY BUGLE MAY HAVE TO RETHINK ITS ENTERTAINMENT PRIORITIES --
EASY, Mr. JAMESON --
-- WE DON'T WANT YOUR PAPER MAD AT US, BUT WE HAVE TO THINK OF OUR RATINGS.
WE'LL TRY TO WORK YOUR SON IN IF WE --
HE'S HERE! HE'S HERE!
Oh! YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME, Mr. JAMESON --
"-- BUT I'VE GOT ANOTHER MEETING."
WHAT? OF ALL THE UNMITIGATED--?!
I'M HONORED, SPIDER-MAN --
-- HONORED AND THRILLED TO FINALLY BE SHAKING THE HAND OF NEW YORK'S NEWEST AND BRIGHTEST SUPER HERO!

HEY, NOW -- WAIT A MINUTE.
I'M NO SUPER HERO -- THE FANTASTIC FOUR, THOR, CAPTAIN AMERICA BACK IN THE OLD DAYS, THOSE GUYS ARE SUPER HEROES --
-- ME, I'M JUST A GUY WHO DOES SOME TRICKS. BUT I'M NOTHING COMPARED TO THEM.
HE SAVES LIVES, HE CATCHES CROOKS, AND HE'S MODEST, TOO! WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE?
SPIDEY -- CAN I CALL YOU SPIDEY? -- I'VE JUST GOT TO HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH FOR MY LITTLE BOY--!
BAH! FLASHY-PANTS SPOTLIGHT-STEALING PUBLICITY HOUND--!
Huh? WHO'S THAT?
NOBODY YOU'LL EVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT. C'MON, SPIDEY --
-- THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET!

SPIDER-MAN, SAY HELLO TO SUPERCHARGER!
NICE LOOK THERE, S.C -- THAT COLOR'S MUCH BETTER FOR YOU.
SUPER-CHARGER'S ANOTHER CLIENT OF MINE -- HE LITERALLY WALKED IN OFF THE STREET! WHEN I COULDN'T GET YOU, I BOOKED HIM ONTO THIS SHOW --
-- BUT NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOU BOTH -- THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!
HI, KID!
ER, HIYA --
-- NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'VE GOT BIG PLANS, SPIDEY -- BIG PLANS!
MOVIE DEALS, ACTION FIGURES, TRADING CARDS -- YOU NAME IT! BY THE TIME I'M DONE, YOU TWO'LL BE THE MOST FAMOUS FACES ON THE PLANET!

Maxie keeps TALKING, but I tune him out.
My SPIDER-SENSE is going off, in a low-level sort of way -- but I don't know what's CAUSING it.
Maybe it was a MISTAKE to agree to be on T.V. again. MAXIE'S all for it, but then I get the impression Maxie's got some DEBTS.
He was WAY too desperate to get me back as a client.
I guess I'll get the money for TONIGHT'S SHOW, get our bank balance up, and worry about everything else LATER.
Still, it's TEMPTING -- the thought of having SOMEONE ELSE take care of the big decisions --
-- and having money could actually make it EASIER to help others.
But I wouldn't want to cash in on fame for the wrong reasons -- make the same mistakes that got UNCLE BEN killed --
-- TELL YOU, THE PUBLIC IS HOT FOR SUPER-GUYS! HOT!
I EVEN GOT YOU PAID IN ADVANCE BY THE NETWORK -- THEY DON'T DO THAT FOR ANYBODY BUT THE BIGGEST STARS!
HEY, EITHER OF YOU EVER WANT TO OWN A B.M.W?
'SCUSE ME --
-- I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF THINGS I NEED TO DO BEFORE THE SHOW...

I pace the walls, wandering around backstage, wishing they'd get on with it. But they've got a lot of set-up to do --
-- messing around with cameras, lights and mikes, getting the BAND all tuned up --
-- letting the AUDIENCE file in, chatty and excited --
-- STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN TAKE THIS SO EQUABLY, JOHN --
-- IT'S AN INSULT -- A SLAP IN THE FACE, TO JUST SHOVE YOU OFF THE SHOW LIKE THAT--!
HONESTLY, I DON'T MIND A BIT. THEY'RE JUST GIVING THE PUBLIC WHAT THEY WANT --
-- HERE, LET'S ASK THIS GUY --
--WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER SEE, SON, A N.A.S.A. ASTRONAUT -- OR SPIDER-MAN?
YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?
THERE'S JUST NO CONTEST! SPIDER-MAN'S MUCH COOLER THAN SOME DOPEY ASTRONAUT!
SEE?
-:HARRUMPH:- I STILL SAY IT'S AN INSULT!
SHH!
QUIET, DAD -- IT'S STARTING!
-- and then finally, the band strikes up the show's THEME, and the host comes out --
GOOD EVENING, AMERICA -- AND WELCOME TO "IT'S AMAZING!"
I'M YOUR CO-HOST, MAC SANDERS -- AND KAREN LITTLE WILL BE WITH US SOON, WITH THE FIRST REPORTS OF A NEW SUPER HERO, A FELLA CALLED IRON MAN!
CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAP

AND YOU KNOW, I THINK THIS IRON MAN GUY SHOULD FORM A TEAM, LIKE THE FANTASTIC FOUR --
-- BUT HE SHOULD HOOK UP WITH VACUUM-CLEANER MAN, TOASTER MAN AND BLENDER GIRL TO CREATE THE ALL-APPLIANCE SQUAD!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
EXCUSE ME.
I'LL TAKE THAT.
HEY NOW, FELLA -- ENTHUSIASM IS COMMENDABLE, BUT YOU CAN'T --
YES I CAN.
SHZAKK
The audience GASPS --
-- and so do I!
WHAT IN THE--?!

At first I think it's part of the MONOLOGUE -- something that was set up BEFOREHAND --
-- but MAXIE didn't say anything about it -- and Sanders looks like he's really HURT --
IMPRESSED YET, PEOPLE?!
MY NAME IS SUPERCHARGER! I'M A LIVING BATTERY -- I CAN ABSORB, STORE AND RELEASE UNIMAGINABLE AMOUNTS OF POWER!
GO AHEAD, APPLAUD! GASP! MARVEL! ISN'T IT KEEN, THE WAY I CAN DO THIS?
ISN'T IT AMAZING? THAT'S WHAT THIS SHOW IS ABOUT, ISN'T IT? JUST THINK HOW AMAZING IT'LL BE --
-- WHEN I KILL YOU ALL!

Oh, GREAT.
That must have been what my spider-sense was reacting to -- he's a SUPER-VILLAIN -- like that DOCTOR DOOM guy!
Cripes -- what am I gonna DO?
AH, BUT BEFORE YOU DIE -- BEFORE YOU DIE --
-- YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW WHY! THE LESSON WON'T TAKE WITHOUT SOME EXPLANATION!
KEEP FILMING, YOU! I KNOW THIS ISN'T GOING OUT LIVE --
-- BUT THIS FOOTAGE'LL PLAY ON EVERY NEWS BROADCAST, ON EVERY TALK SHOW -- AND I WANT IT SEEN!
AND YOU IN THE BACK -- YEAH, YOU -- DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO ESCAPE! I'VE SEALED ALL THE EXITS --
-- WELDED THEM SHUT WITH MY WONDERFUL, FABULOUS, RATINGS-FRIENDLY SUPER POWERS!
NO, YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST TAKE YOUR SEATS AND LISTEN. YOU HAVE TO HEAR ME --
-- AND YOU'RE GOING TO.

ONCE, I WAS LIKE ALL OF YOU --
-- FASCINATED BY THE SUPER-POWERED CREATURES WHO'VE BEEN APPEARING -- THE FANTASTIC FOUR, ANT-MAN, THOR...
TIME
MY FATHER WAS A SCIENTIST, AND HE WAS AGOG AT THE IMPLICATIONS THESE BEINGS HELD FOR TECHNOLOGY, FOR BIOLOGY --
-- FOR OUR ENTIRE CONCEPTION OF HOW THE WORLD AND LIFE ON IT FUNCTION!
"HE WANTED TO SEE IF SUPER-POWERS COULD BE INDUCED -- AND GOD SAVE ME, I HELPED HIM --
"-- CLIPPING ARTICLES, AMASSING DATA, HELPING IN THE LAB...
"BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG -- MY FATHER'S GENERATORS WEREN'T ABLE TO HANDLE THE POWER HE DEMANDED OF THEM!
"THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION --
"-- MY FATHER WAS KILLED --
"-- AND I ENDED UP PROVING MY FATHER RIGHT -- I ENDED UP WITH THIS POWER --
"-- THIS AWFUL, TERRIBLE POWER!

"THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED THE TRUTH -- THAT THESE SUPER-BEINGS WERE NOTHING BUT MONSTERS -- FREAKS --
"-- WHO BRING NOTHING BUT DEATH, DESTRUCTION AND TRAGEDY IN THEIR WAKE --
"-- AND EVEN THOUGH THIS HAPPENS RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES --
-- WE EMBRACE THESE VIOLENT FREAKS!
WE CELEBRATE THEM! MAKE HEROES OF THEM! AND ALL WE GET --
-- ALL WE GET --
-- IS MORE OF THEM!
MORE DEATH! MORE PAIN! MORE ANGUISH!
He's SERIOUS. He really IS going to kill everyone --
-- or at least, he's going to TRY.
He's an honest-to-gosh SUPER-VILLAIN, and what we need here --

-- is a SUPER HERO. Better yet, FOUR of 'em.
UFF!
KRAKK
So much for Supercharger's welding the DOORS shut. Now if only --
HELLO? HELLO, OPERATOR? GET ME THE BAXTER BLIIL --
-- Oh, TERRIFIC.
No DIAL TONE. He's cut the lines.
Still --
-- THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO REACH THE OUTSIDE WORLD!
KRAASSSSSH
I'm planning to head for the BAXTER BUILDING -- get the FANTASTIC FOUR, get somebody who can HANDLE this guy --

-- when --
NO! NO! AIEEEEEEEEE!
Huh?
I'M SORRY, MY DEAR.
I HONESTLY REGRET THIS IS NECESSARY --
-- BUT THE WORLD HAS TO SEE WHAT A HORROR THEY'RE TOLERATING.
IF I JUST TELL PEOPLE, THEY WON'T LISTEN -- THEY'LL JUST LAUGH ME OFF. BUT IF THERE'S A TRAGEDY --
-- MAYBE IT'LL OPEN THEIR EYES, MAYBE IT'LL MAKE THEM REALIZE WHAT'S GOING ON --
-- MAYBE THEY'LL PUT AN END TO THESE MONSTERS.
He brings his HAND back, to deliver the KILLING BLOW --

-- but --
Ah-ah, S.C.!
YOU CALL THAT MANNERS? YOU CALL THAT ENTERTAINMENT?
THIS IS A FAMILY SHOW!
Eh?
I can't do it. I can't just ABANDON these people to this madman.
Super-villain or NOT --
I KNOW THIS WAS YOUR BIG CHANCE TO BE ON T.V., DOLL-FACE, BUT I NEED YOU TO WAIT IN THE WINGS FOR A WHILE --
I'M ALIVE, Oh, GOD -- I'M ALIVE--!
KRAMM
-- CAUSE I'VE GOT SOME WALL-TO-WALL REVIEWING TO DO!
-- I've got to try to stop him.

YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE, SPIDER-MAN.
BUT YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN THE OTHERS, FOR ALL YOUR PIOUS MODESTY!
HOW MANY HAVE DIED BECAUSE OF YOU? HOW MANY?!
KNAKK
Ouch.
LOOK, FELLA --
Is THIS what I get now? Is THIS my fate?
"You didn't save your UNCLE, pal -- so here's a bunch MORE people you can fail to save!
"And if you by some miracle save THEM --
ZKAMM
"-- we'll up the STAKES next time!" Is THAT it?
KRAKAKK
Does it NEVER end?
-- I'M GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF YOUR MOUTH!
THWIP
I'm just a KID. I made a MISTAKE.
But I'm trying to MAKE UP for it, okay? I'm TRYING!

GNAARH!
For a while there's energy EVERYWHERE.
THWAT
I duck, and dodge, and flip, and vault -- and it misses me by INCHES and by SECONDS --
-- and I tell myself maybe I can DO this -- maybe I'll actually BEAT this guy --
-- but NOBODY stays lucky FOREVER.
SHWAK
AAAAAH!

SO MUCH FOR THAT.
I tell myself I TRIED. But it's just TOO MUCH. It's too much weight to BEAR...
I'M SORRY, UNCLE BEN...
I'M SORRY...
C'MON, SPIDEY! DON'T LET HIM PUSH YOU AROUND LIKE THAT! YOU CAN DO IT!
YOU CAN TAKE 'IM! GO ON, GIVE HIM ONE FOR ME!
I don't know if it's Flash's FAITH in me, or just the reminder that there are PEOPLE out there --
-- but I pull myself back from the edge, and I REALIZE something.
This isn't ABOUT my problems.
There are people out there who need HELP, and I'm the one in a position to GIVE it to them.
That's all that really MATTERS.
HEY! HEY, BUDDY... I'VE GOT AN IDEA, BUT I NEED A HAND!
WHILE SUPERCHARGER'S SOAKING UP JUICE TO REPLACE WHAT HE LET OFF AT ME...

DON'T WORRY, MY VICTIMS -- REMEMBER, YOU DIE IN A GOOD CAUSE!
AND I'VE BUILT UP A LARGE ENOUGH CHARGE TO MAKE IT PAINLESS -- INSTAN-TANEOUS --
It isn't about MAKING UP for anything.
It isn't about MISTAKES, or FAME, or the PAST.
WH--?
It's about RIGHT NOW. About doing what NEEDS to be done --
OKAY, BUDDY --
WHAT?!
YOU'RE STILL--?
-- HIT IT!
-- for no other reason than because it's right.

Afterward, they said the sky lit up like NOON for a full minute.
I didn't see it. I was INSIDE.
I just figure -- he's a LIVING BATTERY, right? So hook him up -- use him to POWER something -- ANYTHING --
I...
I...
-- BROADCAST THE POWER CLEAN OUT OF HIM!
I... WAS RIGHT...
...YOU'LL... SEE...
And then he's DOWN --
And the audience --
YAHOO! YAAAY! SPIDER-MAN! SPI-DER-MAN! WAHOO!
HE DID IT -- HE SAVED US ALL!
I DON'T KNOW -- IF IT WASN'T FOR GUYS LIKE SPIDER-MAN --
-- THERE NEVER WOULD'VE BEEN A GUY LIKE THAT SUPERWHATSIT, RIGHT--?

It doesn't take LONG, after that. I break the seals on the DOORS --
-- POLICE and PARAMEDICS arrive, to take Supercharger into custody and to treat the audience members WOUNDED by stray wreckage --
SHEESH! LOOK AT THIS PLACE! IT'S TOTALED -- THEY'RE GONNA HAVE TO REBUILD THIS STUDIO FROM THE GROUND UP --
-- IT'LL BE SO EXPENSIVE, THEY MAY NEVER GET THIS SHOW BACK ON THE AIR!
HONEST, SPIDEY, I DIDN'T KNOW!
I WAS DESPERATE FOR MONEY --
-- THERE WERE GUYS LOOKING TO BREAK MY FINGERS IF I DIDN'T PAY UP ON MY RACING LOSSES -- AND YOU WEREN'T WORKIN' WITH ME ANYMORE --
-- SO MAYBE I DID TAKE HIM ON AS A CLIENT AND MAYBE I DIDN'T LOOK INTO HIS BACKGROUND MUCH --
-- BUT HEY, HOW WAS I TO KNOW?
IT'LL BE UP TO THE POLICE TO DECIDE WHETHER YOU'RE AN ACCESSORY OR A DUPE, MAXIE --
-- BUT THERE'S ONE THING YOU'VE GOT TO DO --
-- AND THAT'S GIVE BACK THE MONEY.

WHAT?!
B-BUT IT WAS PAY OR PLAY! IT WAS -- IT --
-- I NEED THAT MONEY!
So do I, Maxie.
WE DIDN'T EXACTLY DO THE SHOW WE WERE CONTRACTED TO DO, DID WE?
COME ON, MAXIE -- YOU'RE THE GUY WHO BROUGHT SUPERCHARGER IN HERE --
-- AND IT'S JUST WRONG TO PROFIT OFF THIS KIND OF DESTRUCTION. GIVE THE MONEY BACK -- LET THEM USE IT TO REBUILD...
-SIGH-
OKAY, OKAY. I'LL GIVE IT BACK...
LISTEN TO HIM!
Oh, THERE YOU ARE, DAD!
LOOK, IT'S DANGEROUS AROUND HERE -- THERE ARE SUPPORT PILLARS SHATTERED, AND THE CEILING COULD COME DOWN AT ANY MOMENT.
WE'D BETTER GET YOU OUT OF HERE...
WHO DOES HE THINK HE'S FOOLING? TRYING TO PASS HIMSELF OFF AS BETTER THAN NORMAL PEOPLE, AS SOME KIND OF SAINT!
WELL, HE DOESN'T FOOL ME! IT'S LIKE I'VE BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG -- HE'S A BAD INFLUENCE -- A DANGEROUS VIGILANTE --
Oh, DAD THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN SAYING AT ALL--!
I'LL SHOW HIM --

"-- I'LL SHOW HIM GOOD--!"
When Uncle Ben died, I learned a lesson -- with GREAT POWER comes GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.
But I didn't know what it MEANT. Now I DO.
Even if he HADN'T died, I'd STILL have these powers --
-- and I'd still have the RESPONSIBILITY.
I CAN help. So I SHOULD. That's all there is TO it.
Maybe I DON'T feel like a super hero all the time, but who's to say what a super hero FEELS like?
Maybe even the FANTASTIC FOUR have a problem or two.
Okay, so maybe I still need MONEY, but I can find a way.
I'm a SUPER HERO, right? And that's what super heroes do.
They find a WAY...
THE END

AMAZING FANTASY #15, the final issue of a short-lived anthology series, introduced the world to a new and unique super hero: the amazing Spider-Man!

Months later, by popular demand, **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1,** the first issue of the wall-crawling wonder's own ongoing series, hit the stands, beginning a long and successful career for the young web-slinger.

Here now, for the first time, in this three-issue limited series, you will learn what happened in between those two landmark issues...and experience the seminal events that shaped a guilt-ridden young man into a true hero.